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## The Denver Legal Aid Society

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might, with equal probability, be called an action of debt, or detinue, or replevin, or trover, or trespass, or a bill in chancery. \* \* \* In both these cases this court have endeavored to impress the minds of the Judges of the District and Circuit Courts of the United States with the impropriety of permitting those experimental codes of pleading and practice to be inflicted upon them.

“They cannot adopt these novel inventions, which propose to amalgamate law and equity by enacting a hybrid system of pleadings unsuited to the administration of either.”

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## THE DENVER LEGAL AID SOCIETY

*By* JACOB V. SCHAEZEL, *Treasurer*

**T**HE Denver Legal Aid Society, at a meeting held on September 27, 1938, decided to change the method of operating the cases coming under its jurisdiction.

Heretofore all legal work has been done by Harry C. Green, the General Counsel in charge, and his assistant. From now on Mr. Green will act as General Counsel for the purpose of interviewing clients and ascertaining whether or not they have cases requiring relief, and doing the necessary emergency work which might be required of him. His chief function, however, will be to refer worthy clients to practicing attorneys who have indicated their willingness to cooperate with the work of the Society.

The members of the executive committee have been endeavoring for some time to find a way to give the younger attorneys an opportunity of getting more practice, and at the same time becoming associated with the work of the bar in general. Under the proposed plan it is hoped that enough of the older lawyers will indicate a willingness to consult with and assist the younger members of the bar who have taken these cases for the poor of Denver.

A letter is now being sent by the Society requesting lawyers to assist in this work, but whether a letter is received or not, the bar in general is invited to participate in this work, and a letter addressed to any of the officers or members of the

executive committee will be greatly appreciated. The officers in charge of the new setup are as follows:

- JOHN E. GORSUCH, *President*
- HORACE N. HAWKINS, *Executive Committee*
- JACOB V. SCHAETZEL, *Treasurer*
- HARRY C. GREEN, *General Counsel*

Any additional information can be received by telephoning Harry C. Green, or talking to any of the officers. It is hoped that the new plan will be received with enthusiasm, and will give an outlet for a great many cases which heretofore have been handled by the Society direct.

The work of the Legal Aid Society would be considered in the nature of "big business" by any law office in the city.

For the first seven months in 1938 there were 1,224 people who applied for assistance. This assistance took various forms. A tabulation of these cases is as follows:

Matters concerning personal property.....	87
Real property .....	126
Torts .....	88
Contracts .....	96
Domestic Relations .....	334
Compensation cases for workmen.....	18
Collections where amounts were so small that no attorney could handle the job.....	440
Criminal matters.....	22
Bankruptcy where no fees were involved.....	60
Ordinary inquiries.....	86

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1,224

The present plan contemplates that the attorney to whom the case is referred will charge a reasonable fee, based on the ability of the client to pay, or no fee at all if the client is unable to pay.

All judges of all the courts have indicated an interest in the new plan, and will no doubt assist the work of the lawyers who have these cases pending before their various divisions.

In the past there has been some criticism that the work done in the Legal Aid was interfering with the practice of

many of the lawyers, particularly the younger members of the bar, as many of them were perfectly willing to handle the cases even for the nominal fees involved. This will afford a splendid opportunity to work on the scheme and all of the officers and members of the executive committee are very anxious to give this new plan a good tryout.

Later in the autumn it is expected that an evening will be devoted to a discussion of the operation of the Legal Aid Bureau by the attorneys who have indicated a willingness to cooperate and assist in this work.

The Denver Bar Association will be asked to devote one day to a discussion of the problems of the younger attorneys, and an explanation of the new method of the operation of the Legal Aid Bureau will then be given. Comments on this new plan will be greatly appreciated by the officers.

Sincerely yours,

JACOB V. SCHAEZEL, *Treasurer.*

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#### A COMPLIMENT TO MR. G. DEXTER BLOUNT

Mr. Blount has been complimented by having his "Digest of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure" reprinted in the Massachusetts Bar Quarterly, the Nebraska Law Bulletin and the Oklahoma State Bar Journal.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

A MEETING OF THE BAR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE COURTROOM, ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 1938, AT 11 O'CLOCK A. M., IS CALLED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MR. JUSTICE CARDOZO.

ROBERT H. JACKSON.

SOLICITOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

# Dictaphun

## A Question of Reputation

By WM. HEDGES ROBINSON, *Denver*

"The court limited character witnesses to twenty-five to a side. After defendant's attorney had examined twenty-five to prove good character of defendant, the attorney tendered to court a list of 400, offering to give their names. The District Attorney examined twenty-five witnesses and made tender of 600 more, whereupon attorneys for defendant made tender of 1,000 additional witnesses. The court held that the question of reputation began with a challenge and finally degenerated into a competition in offers of attorneys." *People vs. Arnold*, 93 N. E. 786.

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## Cheer Up, Boys, It May Be Just Around the Corner!

By CARLE WHITEHEAD, *Denver*

"In suit for infringement of copyright of song by sales of phonograph records, where there was little dispute as to sales, only one item of cost was contested, and \$1,057.53 was recovered as profits, \$1,000.00 counsel fee was proper." *Davilla vs. Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co.*, 94 F. (2nd) 567.

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## DURANGO TO THE FRONT AGAIN

Mr. Chas. J. Beise, of the Durango Bar, submits the following excerpt from an old case. Names are omitted for the reason that descendants of the parties involved still reside in the community.

*By Mr. Knaebel:*

I desire to call Colonel \_\_\_\_\_.

*By the Court:*

Mr. Knaebel, this is a case tried to the court, and it is for the court to weigh the evidence and determine the credibility of the witnesses. You are a stranger in the community, and are not acquainted with the witnesses. From the

standing of this person offered as a witness, in this community, and from the court's personal knowledge of him, I cannot believe him under oath; in truth, it is the opinion of this court that this man, under all circumstances and conditions, would swear to a lie rather than the truth. Yet it is your privilege to put him on the witness stand, but it will be necessary for you to have very strong corroborative evidence to induce a belief in the mind of the court of the truth of what this witness swears to.

*By Mr. Knaebel:*

Your Honor takes me somewhat by surprise; I had no intimation of such a thing; I desire to prove by Colonel —— that he was Indian Agent; I desire in regard——

*By the Court:*

The facts that he swears to must be corroborated before the court will believe him.

*By Mr. Knaebel:*

Colonel ——, will you take the stand?

*By the Witness:*

I am not subpoenaed, I don't care to take the stand; I have the same opinion of the court that the court has of me, only a little bit more so.

(The record is silent as to what, if anything, the court did upon hearing the witness' opinion above expressed.)

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### **You Wouldn't Believe Me \* \* \***

*By ELMER BROCK, JR., Denver*

"Mr. Terrell C. Drinkwater, a member of our bar, is the local attorney for the Keeley Cure Institute."